GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1054
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
REASONABLE PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCE
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Misery of farmers for not getting adequate prices of their produce;

(b) if so, the measures the Government proposes to fix reasonable prices to farm produce:

(c) whether complaints have been received from farmers for Government agencies not buying their products;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to streamline and enforce the existing system of acquisition of farm products from the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (e): With a view to enabling farmers to avoid distress sale when market prices fall below remunerative levels, the Government announces every year Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities comprising cereals, pulses, oilseeds and other commercial crops namely cotton, jute and sugarcane. In order to ensure that the farmers derive intended benefits in terms of price support, the Government also undertakes procurement through agencies like Food Corporation of India (FCI), Jute Corporation of India (JCI), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. In order to enable the implementing agencies to take timely action, the market prices are closely monitored and wherever they are found to rule below the MSPs, these are referred to the concerned Departments for appropriate action. Further, efforts are being made to announce MSPs well before the commencement of the sowing season so as to enable farmers to choose crops in the light of knowledge of the MSPs of different crops. Keeping this in view, Government announced MSPs for Kharif crops of 2005-06 season in April 2005.